

Message Text

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9957
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 07862

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN, SHUM, CVIS, SREF, RO
SUBJECT: ROMANIAN EMIGRATION

REF: A) STATE 61611 B) BUCHAREST 1948

1. FREQUENCY OF RECENT REQUESTS FROM EMBASSY BUCHAREST AND DEPARTMENT FOR SPECIAL ACTION ON BEHALF OF INELIGIBLE ROMANIANS HAVE CAUSED CONCERN THAT THERE MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THIS MISSION CAN AND CANNOT ACCOMPLISH. THIS MESSAGE WILL ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY SITUATION.

2. REFTTEL (A), PARA 5, SUGGESTS THAT UNHCR PROVIDE RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIANS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO U.S. THIS SUGGESTION WAS SURPRISING AS DEPT WELL AWARE THAT UNHCR WILL NOT AND CANNOT INVOLVE ITSELF WITH NATIONALS OF A COUNTRY BEFORE THEY HAVE CROSSED INTERNATIONAL BORDERS. IN CASE OF ROMANIANS, SITUATION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT UNHCR HAS ROMANIAN NATIONALS ON STAFF WHOSE REPORTING FUNCTIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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KNOWN TO US. DESPITE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF ABOVE, WE HAVE EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF ASSISTANCE ONLY TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION THAT UNHCR CANNOT BE INVOLVED IN THIS SCHEME IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. OUR CAPABILITY TO ASSIST IS THEN REDUCED TO OUR CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS WITH VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. WE CAN

USUALLY PERSUADE A VOLUNTARY AGENCY TO MAKE THE EFFORT OF FINDING A RESETTLEMENT COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE U.S. THIS, HOWEVER, IS A LONG-TERM PROCESS. DESPITE THE ALLEDGED INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF SEVERAL AGENCIES, NO AMOUNT OF WISHFUL THINKING WILL CHANGE THE FACT THAT THESE AGENCIES ARE SUPPORTED PRINCIPALLY BY THEIR U.S. CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATION AND THAT SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IS AT BEST MARGINAL. AGENCIES CANNOT GUARANTEE IN ADVANCE THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT ON THE BASIS OF SHORT NOTICE WHEN EXIT PERMIT EXPIRES IN A FEW WEEKS. THEY WILL, HOWEVER, ACCEPT ANY URSP ELIGIBLE REFUGEE UPON ARRIVAL IN ASYLUM COUNTRY AND THEN, ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW, MAKE WHATEVER EFFORT IS NECESSARY TO RESETTLE. WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT FREQUENT REQUESTS TO INVOLVE TOLSTOY FOUNDATION IN ANY SUCH SCHEME ARE USELESS AS TOLSTOY CAPABILITY TO RESETTLE IS LIMITED EVEN IN THE U.S.

4. REFTEL (B) SUGGESTS THAT INS OFFICER BE ASSIGNED TO BUCHAREST TO REDUCE WAITING PERIOD IN THIRDCOUNTRY. AS THE REFUGEES CONCERNED ARE FULLY SUPPORTED BY USRP WHILE WAITING IN THIRD COUNTRY, MISSION SUPPORTS THIS SUGGESTION ENTHUSIASTICALLY. THE SAVINGS IN FUNDS AND EFFORT COULD BE CONSIDERABLE, AND THE REDUCTION OF THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN ASYLUM COUNTRIES MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES IN REFUGEE MATTERS. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ABOVE SUGGESTION WOULD, HOWEVER, STILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE INELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT IS U.S. POLICY TO ASSIST ANY AND ALL WHO WISH TO LEAVE ROMANIA, INCLUDING ALL THOSE WHOM THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO DISPOSE OF AND WHETHER ALL TYPES OF INELIGIBILITIES MERIT THE SAME CONSIDERATION. (RECENT CASES HAVE INCLUDED VOLUNTARY PARTY MEMBERS, CONVICTED THIEVES, RAPISTS, ETC.). AT THIS TIME, ROMANIANS APPEAR TO RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT NOT ACCORDED OTHER EASTERN BLOC WOULD-BE REFUGEES.

6. AS CONCERNS U.S. INELIGIBLES, WE APPEAR TO BE HELPING ROMANIA WHILE CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR FRIENDLY ASYLUM COUNTRIES AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT REVIEW POLICY TOWARD POTENTIAL ROMANIAN REFUGEES WHILE STILL IN ROMANIA WHO HAVE BEEN FOUND INELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO U.S. A CLEAR POLICY STATEMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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